

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claim 2 has been amended to recite that the coating comprises a full-area or partial metal layer, and that a surface relief structure including a diffraction grating and/or a hologram is disposed on this metal layer, wherein the surface relief structure is fully or partially metallized.

Support for the added recitations is found in the original application, for example, on page 10, line 34-35 and page 11, lines 28-32.

Claims 1 and 14 have been amended like claim 2.

Claims 27-28 have been amended to be directed to a data carrier and claim 29 has been amended to be directed to a system.

It is submitted that all the claims include a common “special technical feature,” comprising at least the newly recited feature, so that they comply with “unity of invention” rules under Rule 13 PCT.

Specifically, GB 2,033,839A to Banes (“Banes”) only discloses a security card made up of a transparent substrate 13 covered by a light-transmitting paper 14, in turn covered by a colored layer, in turn covered by a metallic layer which is partly removed so that the colored layer becomes visible to form a colored clear text. Thus, Banes fails to teach or suggest a surface relief structure including a diffraction grating and/or hologram disposed on a metal layer, wherein the surface relief structure is fully or partially metallized, as recited in the present claims. An advantage of the presently claimed invention is that it is possible to form a security element in which the metal layer can form a mirror for the optically active structure, and the

optically active structure metallization can be in register with the metal layer without reducing the optical effect. This feature of the presently claimed invention is not taught or suggested in Banes, in particular since Banes is completely silent regarding optically features.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all pending claims should be examined in this application.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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